

**Energy Commission--Minutes**  
**September 8, 2009 – 4:00 pm**  
**Room #320 – City Hall**

The meeting was called to order by Phil Wheeler at approximately 4:10 pm.

Members Present: Jay Burke, Mike Benike, Larry Koshire, Christine Schultze, Ed Hruska, Phil Wheeler, Michael Allen, and Michael Wojcik.

Members Absent: Jill Mickelson, Rory Lenton, Doug Holtan,

I. Introduction of Commissioners

- a. *Phil Wheeler (not a commission member) – Director since 1990 of the Rochester – Olmsted Planning Department.*
- b. *Michael Allen - Junior at Mayo High School. His brother and two friends started the Minnesota Student Energy Project installing solar panels at Mayo. There are project plans and funds for Century, John Marshall and Lourdes schools.*
- c. *Michael Wojcik - Ward 2 City Council. He has degrees in electrical engineering and finance He is concerned about vehicle miles of travel and neighborhood development patterns – we should avoid the mistakes made in the past.*
- d. *Jay Burke - Builder, member of City Planning and Zoning Commission, served on Complete Streets Committee. He brings practical implementation perspectives.*
- e. *Mike Benike - Alvin E. Benike Construction. He is a closet tree hugger. He is looking for community scale impact. He is a LEED accredited professional and worked on the design for the IMAA (LEED-certifiable) building.*
- f. *Larry Koshire - General Manager of RPU and serves ex-officio. RPU will serve as a resource for committee.*
- g. *Christine Schultze – Architect, not licensed in Minnesota, and has lived in Rochester for 18 years. She has served on City Planning and Zoning Commission, CUDE, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership, and RDA. She is in favor of complete streets. The Energy Commission ordinance is intended to bring people together to work on the issue of energy. Designer of Fox Hill Subdivision - every step is a step.*
- h. *Ed Hruska - City Council member 1<sup>st</sup> Ward. Initiator of Energy Commission effort. Time to put together things that could make our city better. Win-win for the community. The ordinance passed on a 6-1 vote; Mr. Snyder voted nay due to concerns about duplication of effort with other city commissions. Mr. Hruska hopes the Energy Commission will prove Mr. Snyder wrong.*

II. Open Discussion

- a. Mission, Vision and Values
  - i. *Review ordinance and charge—this item was briefly discussed but it was decided to be tabled until a proper discussion could take place at an upcoming meeting.*

- b. Review of By-laws
  - i. A discussion about the proposed bylaws took place; edits were made and noted by Phil Wheeler [see attached].
  - ii. It was determined that a monthly meeting would take place on the second Tuesday of each month.
  - iii. The motion for approval of the bylaws was made by Christine Schultze, seconded by Jay Burke. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Election of Officers
  - i. It was decided (because of not all members being present, and not having adequate knowledge of one another), to elect positions on an interim basis (three month terms).
  - ii. Michael Wojcik nominated Christine Schultze to be interim chair, seconded by Ed Hruska, passed unanimously.
  - iii. Michael Wojcik nominated Jay Burke to be interim vice chair, seconded by Ed Hruska, passed unanimously.
  - iv. Michael Wojcik nominated Michael Allen to be interim secretary, seconded by Michael Benike, passed unanimously.
- d. Sub Committees- the topic of sub committees was not addressed at this meeting
- e. Budget and Grant Ideas
  - i. LEAP initiative
    - 1. Discussion took place about the grant, it was concluded that there was confusion about whether or not RPU may have already applied for the grant.
    - 2. The group concluded that they would look into this and communicate via email as to what actions need to be taken, as this item is a time sensitive issue.
    - 3. Michael Wojcik volunteered to look into what capabilities the city already has and what would be the best option for online voting and other things of that nature.

III. Task at Hand

- a. This topic was not addressed at this meeting

IV. Projects/Action

- a. Assess the city and efforts to date
  - i. This item was not discussed, it was pushed to when the EC discuss the ordinance and plans further.
- b. Public Works Garage
  - i. Michael Wojcik discussed a possible consultation/information session about the city's new public works garage
- c. Transform: A collaborative symposium:
  - i. Michael Wojcik and Christine Schultze were both interested in attending, only if fees were waived. (Michael Wojcik could attend with money from his seat on the City Council, not funds from the energy commission).

- d. RPU capital plan
  - i. *Larry Koshire talked briefly about RPU's capital plan and what it means to the community*
  - ii. *The group decided that it would be beneficial to hear a presentation about RPU's capital plan to better understand the issue.*
  - iii. *Christine commented that it would be good to have presentations from large scale energy users in the community.*
  - iv. *It was concluded that presentations would take place at future meetings about the efforts of local organizations in regards to green energy/energy efficiency.*
- e. Greencorps Update
  - i. *Phil Wheeler reported that the Rochester Park Department received approval for the Urban Forestry position, but that the position applied for to assist the Energy Commission was not approved. The Urban Forestry position will start in October.*
- f. Urban Village documents
  - i. *Not addressed at this meeting*
- g. Community feedback
  - i. *Discussed was the importance to keep the public informed of decisions that the commission makes.*
- h. Research and outreach
  - i. *See letter G.*
- i. An energy efficiency drive
  - i. *Mike Benike brought the idea of an energy efficiency drive, and agreed to present on what Duluth MN had done for their Energy Efficiency Drive*
  - ii. *Also it was decided that at the upcoming women's expo, the energy commission would not get a booth.*
- j. Property assessed clean energy bonds
  - i. *This topic is to be further discussed once an energy model is put into place.*
- k. Other community models
  - i. *Discussed were the options of looking at the work of other cities for ideas, and a model that could be implemented in Rochester. It was decided that at the next meeting this would be discussed and sometime in the future a model would be put into place.*